

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 COA-02 CG-00 INT-08 COME-00 DLOS-06

EB-11 DOTE-00 IO-14 FMC-04 DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03

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R 251835Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4075

INFO ZNRUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 562

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR IC UK

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: CABINET DEBATE OF HEATH-JOHANNESSON
AGREEMENT

REF: REYKJAVIK 1241

1. ALTHOUGH ISSUE IS NOT YET FINALIZED, PRIMIN JOHANNESSON
APPEARS TO HAVE WON FIRST ROUND IN HIS CABINET BATTLE FOR
ACCEPTANCE OF AGREEMENT HE MADE WITH PRIMIN HEATH FOR ENDING
FISHERIES DISPUTE. FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING OCT 23, IT WAS
ANNOUNCED THAT GOVT HAD AGREED TO DIRECT FONMIN TO WORK OUT
AGREEMENT WITH UK FOR "SHORT-TERM SOLUTION". STATED THAT FONMIN
WILL NEGOTIATE ON BASIS OF "REPORT THAT WAS GIVEN BY THE PRIME
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MINISTER" TO CABINET. "AT THE SAME TIME DESIRABLE CHANGES WILL

BE SOUGHT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER AT THE LONDON MEETING AS WELL AS FINDING A SUITABLE SOLUTION TO POINTS THAT WERE NOT DISCUSSED THERE". WHEN AGREEMENT IS IN "FINAL FORM" IT WILL BE PUT BEFORE CABINET FOR FURTHER DECISION.

2. LUDVIK JOSEFSSON, MIN FISHERIES, LATER SAID PEOPLES ALLIANCE WOULD OPPOSE AGREEMENT IN CABINET UNLESS IT WERE AMENDED REGARDING FOUR POINTS:

A) DURATION MUST NOT EXTEND BEYOND MAY 1, 1975 WHICH IS DATE NORMAL TERM OF PRESENT GOVT ENDS (PROPOSAL IS FOR FULL TWO YEARS FROM DATE OF SIGNATURE).

B) JURISDICTION OVER FOREIGN TRAWLERS WITHIN 50-MILE ZONE MUST BE COMPLETELY IN ICELANDIC HANDS (PROPOSAL CALLS FOR JOINT INSPECTION FOR INFRACTIONS OF FISHERIES RULES WITH OFFENDERS TO BE REFUSED ICELANDIC FISHING PERMITS).

C) ICELAND ALONE SHOULD ESTABLISH CONSERVATION ZONES.

D) ONLY FOUR OF SIX FISHING ZONES SHOULD BE OPEN AT ANY ONE TIME (RATHER THAN FIVE OUT OF SIX AS PROPOSED).

3. UNDER CABINET DECISION, IT WILL ALSO BE OPEN TO OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES TO SUBMIT SUGGESTIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS IF THEY CHOOSE. ONLY FONMIN WILL BE NEGOTIATOR RATHER THAN HAVING THREE-PARTY TEAM INCLUDING JOSEFSSON AND MIN EDUCATION OLAFSSON AS IN PAST.

4. COMMENT: LOCAL INTERPRETATION AMONG PRESS AND PUBLIC IS THAT DIRECTIVE TO FONMIN TO NEGOTIATE IS PROBABLY MEANINGLESS SINCE HE WILL END FORMALIZING TERMS TO WHICH PRIMINS JOHANESSON AND HEATH HAVE ALREADY AGREED. TACTIC WAS FACE-SAVING GESTURE FOR JOSEFSSON AND PEOPLES ALLIANCE WHICH HAD ALREADY GONE ON RECORD AS OPPOSING AGREEMENT. JOSEFSSON TOOK ANOTHER LOSS, HOWEVER, IN BEING BARRED FROM NEGOTIATING TEAM. GENERAL ASSUMPTION NOW IS THAT PEOPLES ALLIANCE WILL REGISTER OPPOSITION WHEN FORMAL AGREEMENT COMES TO CABINET BUT WILL ALLOW IT TO PASS ON BASIS OF MAJORITY VOTE. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT AS A FURTHER FACE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAVING DEVICE FOR PEOPLES ALLIANCE FISHERIES AGREEMENT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO ALTHING WHERE A FAVORABLE VOTE IS PRETTY WELL ASSURED. IRVING

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